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## (54) ADHESIVE TAPE DISPENSER

(71) We, ADHESIVE TAPES LIMITED, a British Company, of Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a dispenser unit for pressure sensitive adhesive tape.

It is known to provide casings or supports for holding a roll of such tape, wherein the tape rotates and a desired length can be cut off by moving the casing or support and/or the tape, relative to one another, to allow severing teeth to act.

The present invention provides an adhesive tape dispenser unit comprising a fixing bracket including a shaft with a free end; a dispenser casing of the type having two parallel flat faces joined by a perpendicular peripheral wall and having an aperture for disposing the casing axially on the shaft; and immobilising means to prevent rotation of the casing with respect to the shaft; whereby a roll of tape can be held within the casing for rotation around the shaft to dispense the free end of the tape via a dispensing orifice in the peripheral wall of the casing.

The immobilizing means may be at least one projection or recess on the bracket mating with a complementary formation on the casing. Most conveniently such projections or recesses are provided on the shaft. Moreover, the immobilizing means could be provided by the relative overall shape of the casing with respect to the bracket, so that for instance it is prevented by its size and shape from rotating.

Usually the immobilizing means will be such that the casing can take up one of two radially perpendicular positions on the shaft. In this way the casing can have the same orientation whether the bracket is wall-mounted or table-mounted.

Preferably, the casing bears severing means, such as teeth, formed in the material of the casing or as a metal insert em-

bedded in the casing. For convenience, the casing can be made with a lid constituting one face, and a box portion constituting both the other face and the peripheral wall as an integral construction. In such a case the lid may be removable (for example as a loose press fit) so that when it is removed the roll of tape within the casing can be replaced.

In a particularly valuable form of the invention, the casing is of such a size and shape that if it were removed from the bracket it could be held in the closed hand and thus be used as a hand-held dispenser.

In one preferred embodiment of this form of the invention the peripheral wall of the casing has a generally flat portion with a guide surface provided with severing means at or towards an end thereof. Usually, the guide surface is curved to form a pressing shoe. It is preferably so disposed with respect to the severing means that slight relative angular movement of the tape across the severing means, that is to say out of the plane of the flat portion (for example by pulling downwards if the unit is fixed on its bracket to a wall, will cause severing of the tape. The remainder of the casing may be of any suitable shape but it is economical and of pleasing appearance, in addition to being easy to handle as a separate device, if the casing is rounded. For example it may be generally circular in shape, as viewed from either flat face.

The bracket upon which the dispenser is mounted can have a flat fixing face which can be perforated for fixing screws or like connections with a wall or table. Usually it will have an upstanding wall, for instance at right angles to the fixing face, from which wall the shaft extends. As indicated above the shaft can be provided with projections or recesses, possibly in two orientations, at right angles, for immobilizing a casing held thereon in either of two positions.

The invention will be further described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 shows an exploded view of the tape dispenser unit having a lid and casing mounted on a suitable bracket.

Figure 2a and 2b show diagrammatically orientations when the dispenser unit is fixed to a table or to a wall respectively.

As shown in Figure 1 the dispenser unit consists of a box portion generally indicated at 1 held on a bracket 2 and closed by a lid 3. The bracket 2 has a base 4, side walls 5, back wall 6, and integral shaft 7 with a free end over which the central portion 8 of the box portion of the dispenser 1 fits. The box portion 1 of the dispenser is immobilized in relation to the shaft by projections 9 fitting into corresponding recesses 10 on the shaft 7. As shown in Figure 1, the top of the box portion is a generally flat surface 11, wherein part of the surface is slightly downwardly inclined at 12 with a transverse rib 13 extending across it. Rounded surface 14 equipped with metal insert 15 having cutting teeth 16 completes the generally flat surface 11. There is a slot 17 between the rounded surface and the inclined portion 12. Lid 3 fixes over the box portion and is held in place by projections 18 on the box portion fitting into holes 19 in the lid.

In use the bracket 2 can be screwed either to a table by screws 4a, as shown in Figure 2a, or to a wall by similar screws 4a as shown in Figure 2b. It could also be fixed by adhesive or by a double-sided adhesive-coated carrier. In either location the generally flat surface 11 is uppermost and the tape can be drawn horizontally from the dispenser and severed by a downward movement of the tape around the curved portion 14 so that the teeth 16 penetrate and sever the desired length. If it is desired to discontinue use of the dispenser for a period, it will be convenient to bend the sticky face of the tape back over the inclined portion 12, transverse rib 13 ensuring that a loose easily graspable end is presented when it is desired to resume use.

From Figure 1 it will be apparent that the dispenser itself can readily be moved from shaft 7 and used as a hand-held unit in the conventional way. In this use the generally flat surface 11 is placed upon the surface to which tape is to be applied, and the device is drawn back across the surface so that tape is paid out and sticks to the surface forthwith. When any desired length has been dispensed it will be sufficient to rock the dispenser so that curved surface 14 and teeth 16 progressively come into engagement with the tape and sever the desired length.

Various modifications may be made within the scope of the invention. Thus, while the immobilizing function in the embodiment shown is carried out by cooperating

projections and recesses upon the shaft 7 and the central portion 8 of the box portion of the dispenser, it may be equally convenient to provide a dispenser of such a shape that after it is fitted on the shaft it cannot, by virtue of its geometry in relation to the body of the bracket, take up a different orientation.

#### WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An adhesive tape dispenser unit comprising a fixing bracket including a shaft with a free end; a dispenser casing of the type having two parallel flat faces joined by a perpendicular peripheral wall and having an aperture for disposing the casing axially on the shaft; and immobilizing means to prevent rotation of the casing with respect to the shaft; whereby a roll of tape can be held within the casing for rotation around the shaft to dispense the free end of the tape via a dispensing orifice in the peripheral wall of the casing.

2. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the immobilizing means is at least one projection or recess on the bracket mating with a complementary formation on the casing.

3. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in claim 2 wherein the or each projection or recess is formed on the shaft.

4. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any one preceding claim wherein the immobilizing means is such that the casing can take up one of two radially perpendicular positions on the shaft, whereby the casing can have the same orientation whether wall-mounted or table-mounted.

5. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 bearing severing means formed in the material of the casing or as a metal insert embedded in the casing.

6. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the casing is made with a lid constituting one face, and a box portion constituting both the other face and the peripheral wall as an integral construction.

7. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in claim 6 wherein the lid is removable to replace the roll of tape within the casing.

8. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any one preceding claim in which the casing is of such a size and shape that if it were removed from the bracket it could be held in the closed hand and thus used as a hand-held dispenser.

9. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the peripheral wall of the casing has a generally flat portion with a guide surface provided with severing means at or towards an end thereof.

10. A tape dispenser unit as claimed

in claim 9 wherein said guide surface is curved to form a pressing shoe.

11. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in claim 10 wherein the curved guide surface is so disposed with respect to the severing means that when tape is withdrawn from the dispensing orifice a slight relative angular movement of the tape across the severing means, that is to say out of the plane of the flat portion will cause severing of the tape.

12. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in any one preceding claim wherein the

bracket upon which the dispenser is mounted has a flat fixing face by which it can be connected to a vertical or a horizontal surface.

13. A tape dispenser unit as claimed in claim 1 and substantially as herein described with reference to, and as illustrated in, the accompanying drawings.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of  
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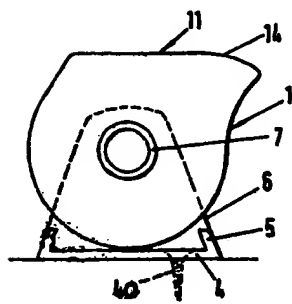
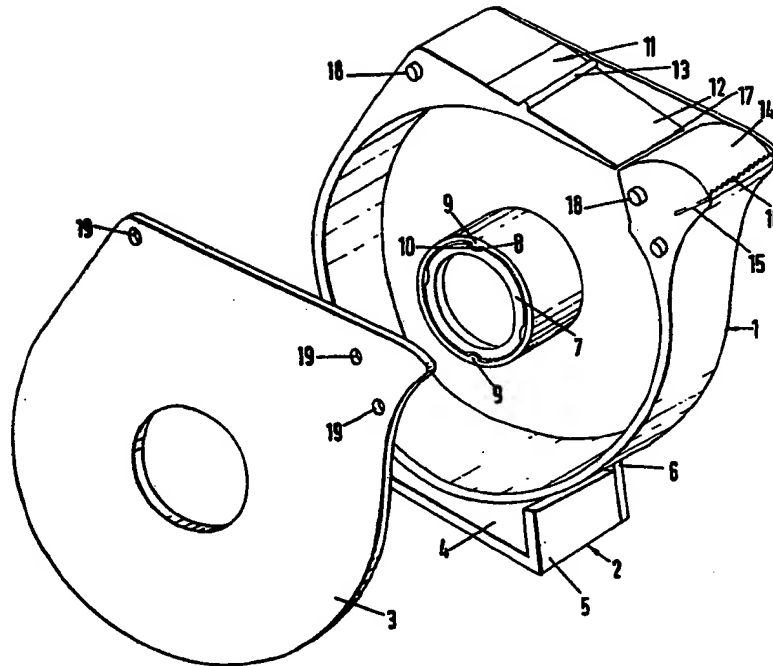


FIG. 2a.

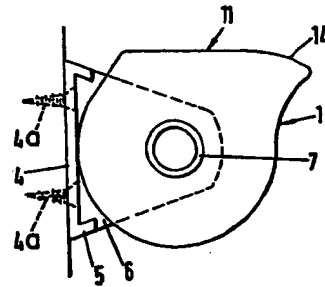


FIG. 2b.